(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) A tourist circuit comprising Bodhgaya, Nalanda and Rajgir has been identified for development in the State of Bihar.

(d) It has been decided to establish four new hotel management institutions in the States, which do not have any hotel management institutions supported by Ministry of Tourism, at present. An Institute of Hotel Management is already functioning at Hazipur in Bihar. There is no proposal from the State Govt. of Bihar to set up another Institute of Hotel Management in Bihar.

Development of model villages in Maharashtra and Bihar

2703. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received proposals from the State Governments of Maharashtra and Bihar for financial assistance to their States for the development of model villages for promotion of tourism;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) The rural sites, for extending financial assistance under the scheme of Ministry of Tourism, are identified as per the recommendations received from State/UT Governments. Based on the proposals received from Maharashtra and Bihar, the funds have been released for the development of following Rural Tourism sites:—

(i)	Sulibhanjan-Khultabad, Distt. Aurangabad, Maharashtra	Rs. 50 lakh sanctioned in 2003-04 for infrastructure development and Rs. 20 lakh sanctioned in 2004-05 for capacity building.
(ii)	Nepura, Distt. Nalanda, Bihar	Rs. 50 lakh sanctioned in 2003-04 for infrastructure development and Rs. 20 lakh sanctioned in 2004-05 for capacity building.

The following sites have been prioritized for the year 2006-07 in consultation and interaction with the State Governments of Maharashtra and Bihar:

Maharashtra:

(i) Village near Kolhapur

(ii) Village near Pune for Gurukul

Bihar:

(i) Patharkathi

Development of tourism in tea garden areas in NER

2704. SHRI O.T. LEPCHA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the details of proposals received from NER particularly from State Government of Sikkim for the development of tourism in the tea garden areas of the region;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) No proposal has been received from NER including the State Government of Sikkim for the development of tourism in the tea garden areas of the region.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Tourism potential in Karnataka

2705. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Karnataka presents a huge tourism potential in varied hues, ranging from pilgrimage, beach, health and natural panoramic resorts;

(b) if so; whether this rich potential is under utilized on account of inadequate infrastructure and facilities and poor promotional efforts; and

(c) what efforts have been made by the Centre to tap this potential for boosting tourism sector in Karnataka, with particular reference to Mangalore and Dakshin Kannada District?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Development and promotion of tourist places/spots is primarily